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VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

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May 4, 2011

Volume 74 Issue 8

STUDENTS ELECT NEW ASU BOARD

**ASU leaders announced
after hasty election process.**

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

Norvan Berkezyan has been named president of the Associated Student Union with a landslide victory of 329 votes out of 585 ballots cast.

"It feels great to have won," said Berkezyan. "Very exciting ... I've been involved on campus for a while and helped organize events so I think Valley College could benefit from my experience and I could benefit from the experience of being a part of a student government."

The election period took place on April 26 and 27 during the hours of 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 4 p.m.-7 p.m. directly following the week of spring break.

Including Berkezyan as president-elect, new board members include Eduard Grigoryan as Vice President, Grigor Karavardanyan as treasurer, Javiera Infante as Commissioner of Public Relations, Frederick "Lester" Salvador as Commissioner of Campus & Environmental Affairs, Ashley Miller as Commissioner of Fine Arts, and Spencer Fuller as Commissioner of Student & Social Affairs.

While ultimately results were produced, both the candidates and the election committee faced a time

crunch that impacted the campaigning period.

"I wish there had been more time to campaign ... it was campaign, spring break and then voting," said newly appointed Treasurer of the ASU Grigor Karavardanyan.

The nominated candidates had no more than one week to promote themselves before spring break and the elections promptly followed.

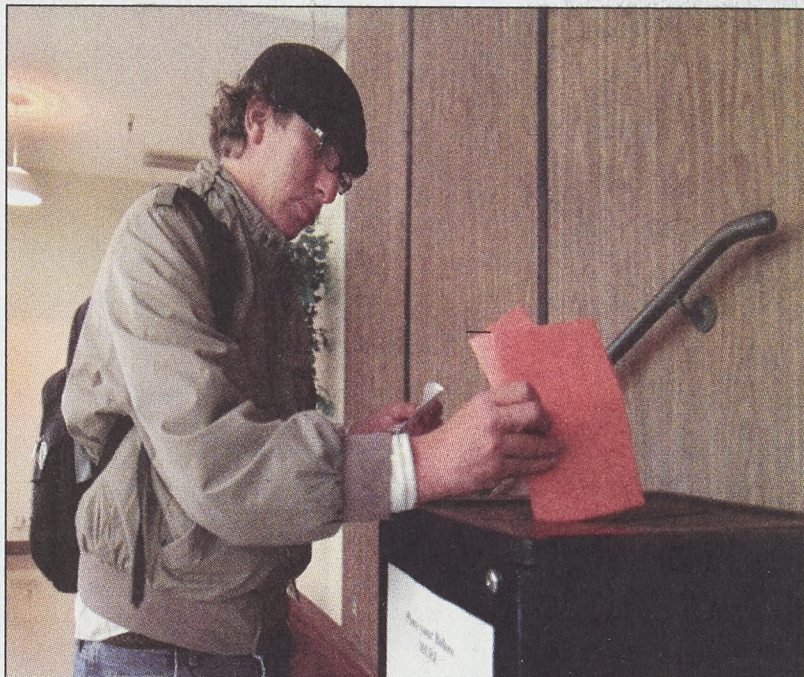
"We (the candidates) didn't have a chance to really get out there enough for the students to get to know us," said Berkezyan.

The limited campaigning period resulted from the initial low turnout of ASU candidacy applications forcing deadlines to extend more than the election committee would have preferred.

"There were a few things that were simply out of our control," said Commissioner of Political Affairs and Chair of the Election Committee for ASU Marcos Perez. "Had we conducted the elections before spring break, we would have had less than the 10 candidates we ultimately had."

Considering the circumstances, Perez felt satisfied with how the election process was ultimately handled and executed.

"I'm very pleased with the way the elections were conducted ... there is always room for improvement," [See **ELECTION**, Page 2]



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

STUDENTS' CHOICE - Shane Schwartz casted his vote in the recent ASU election.

COUNSELING EVENT HELPS STUDENTS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

**Mega counseling event
offers students much-
needed academic outreach.**

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

With the spring semester shortly coming to a close, students could be in need of academic guidance. Scheduling counseling appointments can often be difficult, but Valley College counselors will help as many

students as possible in participation of the mega counseling week event.

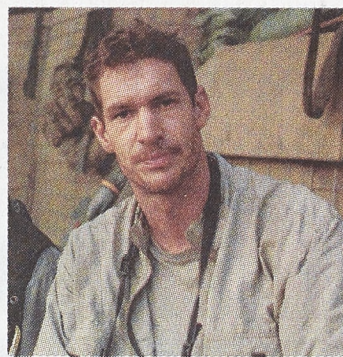
"Given the situation with the state budget crisis, it is more critical than ever before that students receive assistance they need to navigate through these uncertain times," said Valley counselor Barbara Goldberg. "No one will be turned away. We are committed to seeing as many students as possible."

As of Monday, May 2, students can meet with a counselor for 15 minutes focused on help with fall registration. Counselors will meet with students on a first-come first-served basis from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. with the last appointment at 6:45 p.m. Thursday. Friday counselors will only be available from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. Goldberg and Counseling Department Chair Dr. Bruce Thomas coordinated the counseling event together.

An appointment with a [See **COUNSELING**, Page 2]

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The Fall 2011 schedule is now available online at www.lavc.edu/schedules.htm. Per-unit fees have increased to \$36.



Noted photojournalists killed while reporting from Libya.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3



Kadima String Quartet joins Free Concert Wednesdays.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4



Swimming and diving teams break five school records.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6



UNITED - Students, staff and community members marched around the Studio City/Valley Glen area to raise awareness about rape and sexual assault on Friday as part of the Take Back The Night event hosted by Valley College. The event was part of April's National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

VALLEY STUDENTS TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

**Organized walk marks
the end of Sexual Assault
Awareness Month.**

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

More than 50 students and supporters showed up at Valley College Friday night to celebrate "Take Back the Night," an event held across America during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Feminist Club and the Sociology Experiment Club sponsored the event.

"This is a way the community is brought together in saying 'No' in a gentle, loving, healing way, and saying it's our night, because we shouldn't be afraid ... we are

together as a community in saying, 'No means no!'" said Sociology Professor Darby Southgate.

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, or RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, one out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime and every two minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted. Here at Valley there have been four cases of sexual battery since 2002, according to the Sheriff's Department.

Marie Price, president of the Feminist Club spoke in regard to the social issue of violence and sexual assault and also gave information for those interested on how to become more involved. Refreshments and little blue and purple ribbons were provided for the guests as well.

"We want to get the people to know the facts about rape and we want to stand with people that have been sexually assaulted," Price said.

Valley student Lizbeth Garcia brought her two high school sisters to the event.

"I believe in what they are doing, I believe in the effort ... I have two young ladies I have to take care of and so I strongly believe in this cause because any woman would be scared," Garcia said.

During the evening, everyone with lanterns in hand walked and chanted for an estimated two-mile radius, it started from Burbank Boulevard to Coldwater Canyon Avenue to Victory Boulevard to Fulton Avenue.

Jennifer Quirino president of the Sociology Experiment Club

expressed the importance of this event, "We are hoping that one night we don't have to be scared to walk because a lot of us have night classes ... and yes, rape does happen to men so when we are walking to our car we have our car keys ready, we are running. Tonight we are not running we are not scared." Quirino said.

Among the supporters who came to the event, there was actor and activist Joe Estevez. Estevez has worked on over 150 films and is very involved with the movement.

"What they're doing is absolutely marvelous because you have to speak up and speak out, because silence is saying I'm okay with violence and the status quo and just to speak out tonight in this march tonight with these young marvelous kids ... they are making a difference and this is their world," said Estevez.

VALLEY SPEECH TEAM SOUNDS OFF, WINS BIG

**Team celebrates national
championship gold
medal win and earns 18
competitive event medals.**

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's speech team attended the Phi Rho Pi national public speaking championship tournament in Greenwich, Conn., April 12-16, bringing home eight gold medals, four silver, and six bronzes. Also, for the third time in four years they claimed the national championship team gold medal.

"Valley has long been recognized as one of the best speech teams in the nation," said Duane Smith, director of the speech team. Valley's speech team has a rich history of winning, dating back to the '70s, and is always a top team at the national tournament. Of the 13 students who attended, 11 took home at least one medal.

Rick Magana has been on the team for two years, and was part of the four-person Readers Theater team that took home a gold medal. They also received the Huffer-Goldman award, an award voted on

by their peers.

"[Speech Team] is something I think everyone at Valley should take advantage of for the things it can teach you ... if there is one place you can go that will niche you tools you can use in the professional world its speech team," states Magana.

Some of the benefits of speech team include improved writing and research skills, professionalism, self-confidence, and strong communication skills, which is the number one requirement of most employers. It also helps people overcome their fear of public speaking, a phobia many people suffer from.

"A lot of people have a fear of public speaking and think they wouldn't be good at it," says Joshua Miller, speech department chair. "However, the student's perception of his or her own skill is not a predictor of success. Anybody can do it if they want to."

Speech team members all come out of Speech 101, where they audition and meet with the coaches to decide which competition is right for them. The coaches are dedicated to helping the students grow and learn, sometimes meeting



EDGAR ROBLES, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

WINNING - Valley's Speech Team won big, competing against more than 500 students at 53 community colleges at the 2011 Phi Rho Pi National Public Speaking Tournament in April, held in Greenwich, Conn.

with them everyday. They tailor it to the individual and their experience, and will work with the students on everything from diction to building a better emotional response. It is this dedication that keeps the team at the top of its game, year after year.

Although the team's past is full

of medals and awards, its future is uncertain. Drastic budget cuts may keep the team from competing next year, ending its long tradition of winning.

Magana thinks, "It will be a shame [if the team gets canceled]. This is one of Valley's most successful programs."

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U.S. SERVES UP JUSTICE TO MASTERMIND OF 9/11 ATTACK

Bin Laden killed Sunday by U.S. forces near Islamabad, Pakistan.

NATHAN McMAHON
STAFF WRITER

The Department of Homeland Security issued a warning to state and local authorities to be aware that al-Qaida or other terrorists may be looking to retaliate for the death of Osama bin Laden.

"Though bin Laden is dead, al Qaida is not," said Leon Panetta, the director of the CIA, in a memo sent throughout the organization Monday morning.

Nearly 10 years after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Osama bin Laden was brought to justice on Sunday when he was killed in a firefight that lasted less than 40 minutes at a multi-million dollar compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

An elite U.S. military group known as Navy SEAL Team Six carried out the mission, codenamed "Geronimo." Panetta, watching the action in real time, confirmed bin Laden's death to President Obama who sat in his Situation Room with staff, declaring, "Geronimo EKIA (Enemy Killed In Action)."

"We got him," said Obama in response.

"Justice has been done," said Obama late Sunday evening in a televised address to the nation. "Today's achievement is a testament

to the greatness of our country and the determination of the American people."

According to the president, the attack took place in the city of Abbottabad, Pakistan which is far removed from the shared Afghanistan and Pakistan border where many officials believed bin Laden had been hiding for the past few years.

"A small team of Americans carried out the operation with extraordinary courage and capability," said Obama, referencing the Joint Special Operations Command unit that was tasked with the mission. "After a firefight, they killed Osama bin Laden and took custody of his body." The president was quick to note that there were no U.S. or civilian casualties.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the U.S. first received a lead on bin Laden's whereabouts last August and spent the past few months verifying his location. The president gave the order to initiate the covert operation last week after deciding there was enough credible information to proceed.

Though the president said that Pakistani intelligence officials were cooperating with the U.S. in verifying bin Laden's location, the Times reported that a source in both the American and Pakistani governments said that the Pakistani's were not warned in advance of the impending operation.

The president did reiterate the need for the U.S. to maintain its relationship with Pakistan in their

combined effort to thwart terrorism. "Going forward, it is essential that Pakistan continue to join us in the fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates," said Obama.

Bin Laden and his terrorist organization, al-Qaida, had long been a thorn in the United States' side with overseas attacks on military, government, and civilian targets across the Middle East and Central Asia.

It was the eventual attack on the World Trade Center in New York City in 2001 that propelled bin Laden to the top of the FBI's most wanted list and the subsequent bounty of \$27 million was the highest ever offered for an individual on that list.

According to a U.S. Senate report from 2007, the U.S. came close to capturing or killing bin Laden multiple times, most notably in Tora Bora in 2001 but each attempt ended in vain.

With a crowd of excited people gathered outside of the White House exclaiming, "U.S.A.!" this event closes a dark chapter in U.S. history and brings some cold comfort to still grieving family members of the victims of 9/11.

"Ten years later, I feel a sense of relief to know they got the person who murdered my father," said Kathy Ugalde to Newsday.com, when speaking about her father, Robert Downey of the FDNY, who died in the September 11 attacks. "I got a bit of adrenaline rush. ... I'm still trying to take it all in. I feel sad. I feel like crying."

COUNSELING

Continued from page 1

counselor is a high demand. On Tuesday May 2, Counseling Department Receptionist Selma Cohen attended many non-stop phone calls and walk-ins. Around 11 a.m. Cohen informed students calling, appointments for the day were no longer available. Although students are not obligated to see a counselor, it's a crucial tool to the path of success, according to Goldberg. Planning the upcoming semester now can save students future hassle.

"Students who have a plan and see a counselor regularly to make sure they are on track for achieving their goals generally are more successful," explained Goldberg. "We always encourage students to see a counselor once a semester to develop and fine-tune their educational plan."

After discussing outreach to students, the counseling department began distributing coupons to classes for a guaranteed 15-minute appointment.

"I found out [about this event] through my Chicano Studies class, a counselor came in to drop off coupons," said Valley student Maria Hernandez.

Advance appointments began in person and over the phone last Tuesday. Students without an appointment or coupon are still welcome and encouraged to drop in to meet with a counselor. Timing is limited during the event, but follow up appointments can be made.

The general counseling department, approximately 13 counselors, will continue dedicating this week to helping students prepare for the upcoming semester. Students are urged to seek guidance if needed and be mindful of their early registration appointment date for better chances of enrollment. The 2011 fall semester schedule of classes is now available and can be downloaded online.

For more information on academic counseling, please call (818) 947-2600 x. 4200.

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

the election had its moments of continuous activity, but a total turnout of 588 out of approximately 19,000 students is not representative of all the students at LAVC," said Perez. "I hope the next ASU board is better prepared to inform students of the role the ASU plays in addressing a wide variety of issues affecting students."

The winning candidates will

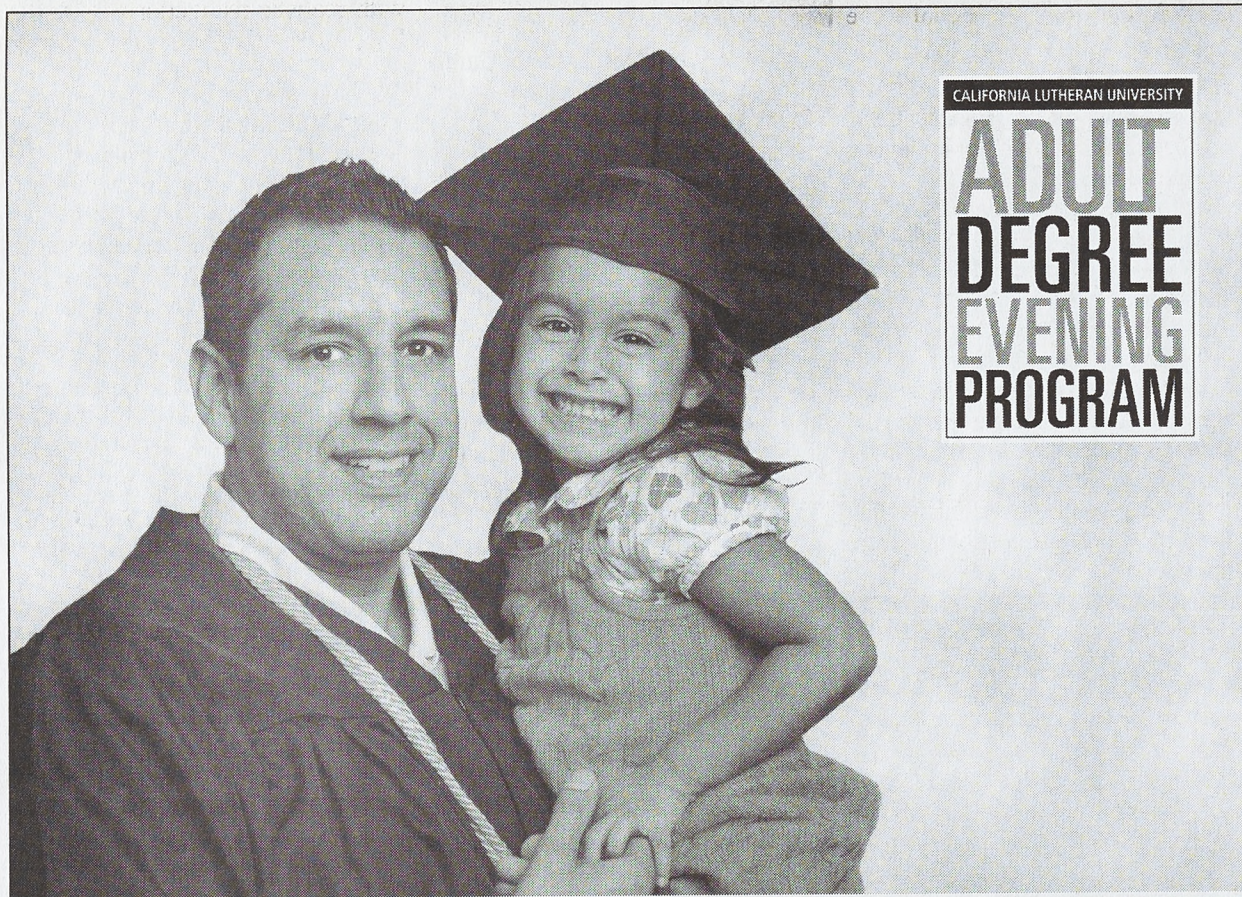
officially be appointed to their positions in the month of June but there are still positions that need to be filled. Commissioner of Ethnic & Cultural; Commissioner of Evening Division, Commissioner of Athletics, Commissioner of Political Affairs, Secretary, Chief Justice, Parliamentarian, and Inter-Club Council Representative will be available for students to apply for in the fall semester.



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DROPPING THE HAMMER

While Pfc. Bradley Manning rots in a brig, Obama takes his contempt for Manning's constitutional rights to a whole new level.

NATHAN McMAHON
STAFF WRITER

Our Commander in Chief, President Obama, has taken it upon himself to now declare Pfc. Bradley Manning guilty for his alleged actions in the WikiLeaks scandal that involved classified state department and military documents. Here is a soldier who has been rotting in solitary confinement in a cell in Quantico for the better part of a year. He has never been put on trial and afforded the opportunity to prove his innocence.

This is the president of the United States, who also happens to be a constitutional lawyer, matter-of-factly stating that a U.S. citizen is guilty before he even has the opportunity to be tried in our courts of law.

At a recent San Francisco fundraiser, a Manning supporter asked Obama about the charges that have been leveled at Manning. Video of the encounter was released, and in it Obama clearly states that Manning "broke the law."

It may be easy to look at this as an off-the-cuff statement in which the president misspoke and let his opinion be known out of turn. The problem is that he has shown disdain before when it comes to issues of human rights. His covering fear he displays when it comes to the supposed terrorists being held at Guantanamo Bay and their inability to get a fair shake is appalling.

The ease in which Obama slides into certain dictatorial traits in regards to these issues should be cause for concern to anybody who can see two feet in front of him. Obama has become a sort of walking suit filled with Bush-like responses to hard-hitting questions.

This president was elected on a platform of change. It's been said many times before, but needs repeating, that old policies of the Bush era lies, half-truths, and manipulations should be abandoned and replaced. The disgrace that is the Patriot Act still looms its Orwellian head over us. The lack of any measurable steps in progress on gay rights and often outright stripping of civil liberties with this issue. It's reached a head with this president's hubris and enough is enough.

When the president makes a blanket statement about someone's unproven guilt he tarnishes the office he holds. Manning's entire life is in jeopardy over his alleged actions and Obama just handed his eventual jury members the noose. That's just plain un-American.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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CAPTURING THE STORY WITHIN A SINGLE SHOT

Recent deaths of noted photojournalists highlight the big picture.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Journalists are trained to find and get the story. Sometimes the journalist telling the story becomes the story itself.

In April, photojournalists Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros were killed while reporting on the plight of rebel forces in war-torn Misrata, Libya. Two other photographers, Guy Martin and Michael Christopher Brown, were with them. The men were in the thick of things by choice when, according to reports, the group was hit by a rocket propelled grenade launched by Gadhafi forces. Hetherington died within minutes of reaching the hospital, Hondros shortly after. Martin and Brown, gravely injured, survived.

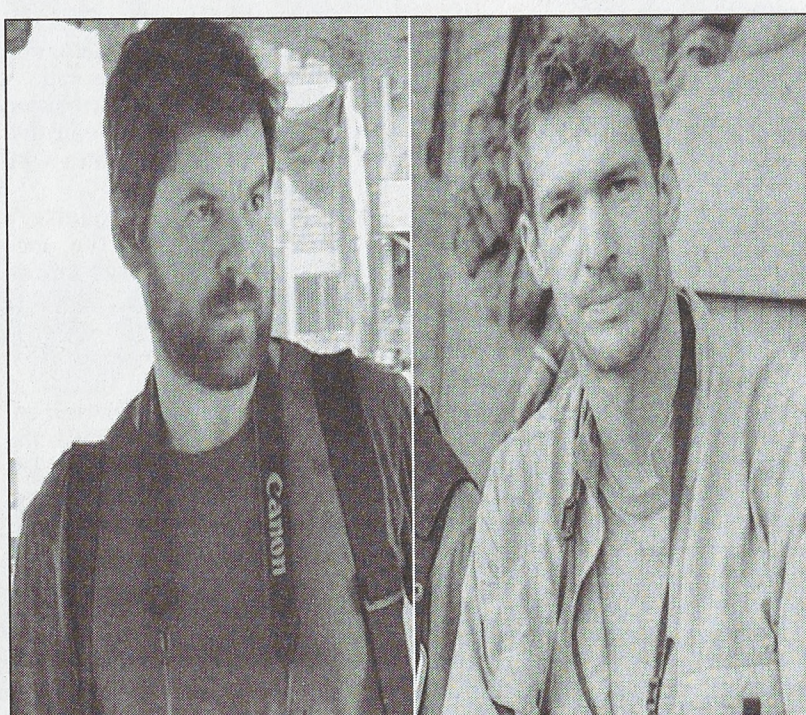
Journalism is a career of passion. Passion for words. Passion for images. Passion for knowledge, truth, and accountability. As Hetherington and Hondros' careers and images remind us, it's also about a passion for humanity. For some, that passion comes at a sobering

price. A journalist's job is to keep people informed, and many routinely risk their freedom and their lives in order to do so -- shining a light on truth and ignorance and giving a voice to the voiceless. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, as of December 2010, 145 journalists—a 14-year high—were jailed worldwide. Sixteen, including Hetherington and Hondros, have been killed in 2011.

Hetherington was most recently known for his work as co-director of "Restrepo." The film documents the deployment of U.S. soldiers to Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, considered one of the most dangerous postings in the U.S. military. "Restrepo" was neither pro-war nor anti-war. It was about the soldiers and their experiences.

"Regardless of your politics, you will see and digest what these men go through and understand that experience as a starting point for a discussion about the war," Hetherington told National Public Radio. "We hope this film is a keyhole through which this country can start to understand what is happening out there."

The film received multiple awards, including the Sundance



COURTESY OF ABCNEWS

Grand Jury prize in 2010 and an Academy Award nomination for best feature documentary earlier this year.

Like Hetherington, Hondros' images strived to convey the reality of a situation. One of his most noted shots depicts the anguish of a blood-spattered little girl shortly after her parents were killed by U.S. soldiers in Iraq after the family failed to stop at a military checkpoint.

Austrian-born journalist and

former editor of Time magazine Henry Anatole Grunwald once said, "Journalism can never be silent: that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air."

The journalism community, and the world, has lost a powerful voice in the death of these renowned photographers.

COMMUNISM, A CLASSIC SCARE TACTIC

Conservatives don't know the difference between socialism and communism.

ARMANDO ABOGADO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Language from the mouth of the conservative party has become convoluted in an attempt to shut down all who oppose their golden edicts. Even before the new democratic president took his seat, his opposition was labeling him a communist.

Republicans wasted no time in associating his experience in labor, civil rights and social issues with socialism or communism. The terms socialism and communism are thrown around with such malice that the public doesn't stop to think about how those words have evolved in the context of contemporary times. Let us briefly look at these two ideologies.

Socialism is the theory that

public or common ownership and cooperative management of production and resources belongs to the people. The idea was that there was one centralized government or center of power. Socialism was favored by unions and laborers, so they wouldn't be taken advantage of. One current socialist practice the United States utilizes is social security. This old-age program is government-sponsored and acts as a safety net for U.S. citizens who have worked their entire lives paying into the program.

The modern concept of socialism works within the capitalist system and is based on economic models of Scandinavia (Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway) where access to health care and education are a priority.

Communism is a branch of socialism that was introduced in the late 19th century. This borrowed the idea of production of common goods for the needs of all. In communism, the labor force sought

to crush the elite and eliminate classes so everyone was on a level playing field. Everyone would work out of a sense of obligation. There is no incorporating capitalism with communism. There is no government body, but ownership belongs to everyone as long as they work. This is where communism and socialism differ. Socialism doesn't seek to destroy the capitalist model but to refine it so that a centralized government in power can see that everything is distributed accordingly and its people are treated fairly. Based on that model, there are already programs in place that already follow this concept, such as social security and the idea of universal health care.

None of the policies put forth by the current administration seem to implement communism. This is a scare tactic used on the population that remembers the Cold War and Reagan years. It is used on the less educated who could not define either term properly. Remember in 2003,



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according to National Geographic, 63 percent of Americans ages 18 to 24 couldn't locate Iraq on a map.

DRAG RACES AT THE ENGLISH ROYAL RUMBLE

A first-person look at the most fabulous wedding ever.

BRAD TAYLOR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Nearly 23 million Americans tuned in to watch William and Kate say "I do" in a ceremony that was a mix of pomp, circumstance and fabulous hats.

The Royal Wedding, or gay Christmas as I call it, was carried live from about 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. on 11 networks. The gala event garnered higher ratings than Prince Charles and Lady Diana's televised nuptials, proving that Disney

dreams are still alive and well.

Between watching the TV and jumping from Facebook to Twitter I was on "Royal" overload. It was truly surprising how many folks were up so early with me. There were several revelations, such as realizing Prince Harry at some point became amazingly handsome, and that Kate looks an awful lot like Lynda Carter.

The new Duchess of Cambridge was dazzled in an ivory and white satin gaze Alexander McQueen wedding gown that has already been replicated by discount dressmakers worldwide. The fashion explosion cost around \$83,000 and recalled Grace Kelly and Princess Diana while looking totally current.

Watching Posh Spice do her best to upstage everyone was a true highlight; the pregnant fashionista was squeezed into her Louboutins and navy blue baby-bump dress. But Kate's sister Pippa was the lady to beat. This was one bridesmaid who almost out-shined the bride. With a sleek white cowl-neck dress, Pippa was the biggest surprise of the day.

But it was the parade of outrageous hats that kept me glued to the television. At one point I wasn't sure if I was watching a wedding or auditions for "RuPaul's Drag Race." Big hats, small hats, bright hats and bird hats it was as if Dr. Seuss himself designed them. It also didn't help that the queen was decked out in so much

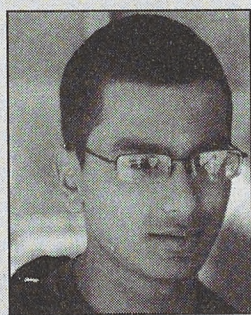
yellow she looked like Big Bird.

The actual nuptials were classy and romantic, the sort of affair that takes months of planning and creates the best pop culture moments. The bride and groom had wide smiles rarely seen on British royalty. Viewers were also treated to not just one, but two, kisses as the crowd cheered. The couple whispered cute messages that British media have been trying to translate like they were code breakers in WWII.

A new Royal era has gotten off to a fancy and romantic start. With big hats and big ratings this next generation of monarchy is on camera, online and ready for its close up.

VALLEY VIEW

DO YOU FEEL SAFER NOW THAT OSAMA BIN LADEN IS DEAD?



"No, because they killed the leader, not the whole group itself, the same thing is going to happen."

-ARMAN KHALED
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION



"Personally, I don't trust that he's dead. I think he died a few months ago because he had a kidney problem."

-HATEM BEN MILSL
MUSIC



"Not really, because was he a threat before? Why would I feel any safer?"

-SHABAZ KASIA
BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT



"Not really actually, because there are still a bunch of terrorists out there and people who are against the U.S."

-HOLLY WOLFSTEIN
UNDECIDED



"I don't think it really matters because someone is going to take his place."

-EMMALYNN ALFARO
BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT

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Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

! THINK
TRANSFER

Career/Transfer Center/TAP Luncheon honoring our transfer students who are admitted to four-year universities for 2011 Tuesday, May 17 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Monarch Hall. There will be entertainment, Transfer and TAP Certificates awarded, keynote speakers, scholarships, raffles, and "What's Next Workshops" led by university admission reps. To sign-up come by the career/transfer center of call (818) 947-2646.

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Monday, 9
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Undecided Major/
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1 - 2 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 10
UC Santa Cruz rep
10 a.m. - noon
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math(STEM) Careers Panel Workshop 1 - 2:30 p.m. Foreign Language 102 How to Transfer Workshop 1 - 2 p.m. CSUN Mentor 1 - 5 p.m.

For further information and sign-up for activities contact the Career/Transfer Center in the Student Services Bldg. Annex or call (818) 947-2646.

FREE CONCERT FEATURES VETERAN PERFORMERS

The Kadima String Quartet returns to Valley College for another proficient performance.

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Kadima String Quartet inspired and impressed last Wednesday during their free concert. The mood was lighthearted and casual, as apparent by their matching converse shoes. It was also educational and interactive, with lots of descriptions, discussions, and questions.

The quartet is in residence at Valley College, and they give lessons on campus, have input on the curriculum, and are chairs in the Valley Symphony Orchestra. Also, cellist Lynn Angebrannt is the college string teacher.

They did a short, two-piece concert, but the hour was filled

with information on the songs and composers, as well as questions and a fun interactive quiz at the end.

Violist Beth Elliott introduced their concert as "two awesome and difficult pieces, full of notes with lots of meter changes."

Although the quartet's demeanor was causal and fun, once they began playing, it was serious and professional with a high level of musicianship. They began with the first and fourth movements from Maurice Ravel's "String Quartet in F Major." During the first movement their sound blended perfectly as the dynamics of the song rose and fell like waves. It was quiet and flowing, with a brokenhearted feel to it. It was much different than the fourth movement, which was agitated and aggressive, with lots of musical tension. There was no melody, only musical phrases passed back and forth between the instruments, played over eerie sounding vibratos and arpeggios. The cello part was particularly interesting near the end, and Angebrannt played it fast and furiously. The song built to a strong and powerful triple forte

ending.

The second piece was "String Quartet No. 8" by Russian composer D. Shostakovich. Elliot gave background on the piece, which helped put visual images in the audience member's heads. It was written in the '60s, during the Cold War. At that time Shostakovich had just been diagnosed with polio, and forced to join the communist regime against his will. He dedicated the song to all the victims of fascism.

Shostakovich's voice shines through his music, and you pick up on his feelings -- anger, fear, sadness, and sarcasm -- throughout the song. The music starts with a polka feel that is continually interrupted by irritating pauses and screeches. The song then fades to a bleak and disheartening feel, with a violin crying above the quiet drone of the other instruments. The music was expressive and invoked lots of images, such as an old man watching the gloomy rain out of his window. The song slowly faded, ending on one long, lonely soft note.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR
STRUNG OUT - The Kadima String Quartet performs for Valley College students.

TINA FEY PUTS ON HER BOSSY PANTS

In her new book, "Bossypants," Tina Fey explains why she's the boss.

BRAD TAYLOR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Tina Fey brings the funny fundamentals of her life into focus with "Bossypants," a book that reveals secrets behind "Saturday Night Live" and the layers of Liz Lemon.

"Bossypants" is equal parts memoir and Hollywood satire. Fey

brings much of her smart sarcasm to print and tells stories that touch on her childhood and career while still keeping a lot hidden from readers.

From Sarah Palin to Oprah, Fey gives insight into the biggest moments of her career, but also talks about growing up with gay best friends and summers at theater camp. Or as Fey puts it, "What 19-year-old Virginia boy doesn't want a wide-hipped, sarcastic Greek girl with short hair that's permed on top?"

The writer/actress/producer's voice is just as sharp and outrageous on the page as it is on screen. Her book is full of anecdotes and

self-deprecating life lessons. One of the many standout chapters is "Dear Internet," in which Tina lambastes some of her many online detractors.

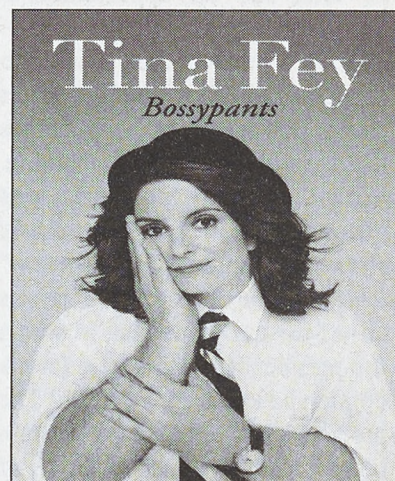
Upon being called a troll, the writer retorts, "To say I'm an overrated troll, when you have never even seen me guard a bridge, is patently unfair." And as Fey declares, "There is no such thing as bad press."

The pseudo memoir really works as a look behind the scenes of Fey's show "30 Rock." If you ever wondered where the characters from the show were created just read about Tina's dad, Don Fey, and

SNL creator Lorne Michaels, then you can see where Alec Baldwin's Jack Donaghy was born. Fans of the show will pick out moments and plots from the series as Tina tells stories from her 9-year run on SNL.

However, the book fails to even touch on Tina's film work. With the exception of a few "Mean Girl" references, the author never delves into her movies like "Baby Mama" and "Date Night." Hopefully she is keeping these for another book.

Tina Fey enjoys being Tina Fey and her book relishes in all of its Fey-ness, and to borrow one of her catchphrases, I want to go to there.



COURTESY OF BLOGSPOT.COM

JAZZ ENSEMBLE SHARES
MORE THAN LOVE OF MUSIC

Valley College's Jazz Ensemble showcases some of the school's best and brightest musicians.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of television shows about student singing groups and finding America's best singer, many genres of music tend to go unnoticed. However, the Valley College Vocal Jazz Ensemble comes together as friends with a shared love of music and to educate themselves on music that seems to be fading away -- jazz.

The Vocal Jazz Ensemble is comprised of 17 students who are a part of the Applied Music Program and meet every Tuesday and Thursday for two hours. The Applied Music Program is structured for students who are planning on transferring and prepares them for college auditions.

"This is the most select choral group on campus," said director Glenn Carlos. "It's a really specialized music. It's more modern jazz, fusion jazz, swing, and bebop. This is an opportunity for students to compliment their skill set if they wanted to be a studio musician."

Students not only learn from Carlos, but they also learn from each other. Throughout the rehearsal,

students gave each other helpful notes such as how to phrase several measures of the music and how to emphasize a certain note.

There is also a sense of community that these students have. Students come from a 40-mile radius to come together and practice. Upon entering the recital hall, each student is greeted with a hello and a hug.

"Everyone is really close," said music major Allyson Gilaser. "We're like a family and Mr. Carlos is like our dad and the rest of us are all brothers and sisters. Whenever I come here it puts me in a good mood, even if I'm in a funk before I come here."

The students went over several songs during rehearsal while showing true dedication to their craft, constantly going over several systems and making notes on their music.

"We work really hard to master (the music)," said music major Josh Bovill. "It's more of a challenge than any of the other groups, and if you're looking for a challenge this is the group you want to be in."

Students who are interested must audition for the group each semester. Carlos urges students to know how to sight sing and read music, but they don't have to be music majors to audition. To learn more about the jazz ensemble students should visit Professor Glenn Carlos or email music@lavc.edu.



TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR
UNITY - The Valley College Jazz Ensemble listens attentively to Director Glenn Carlos as he explains the importance of phrase emphasis.

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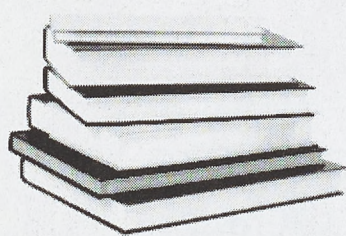
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TRANSFER RIGOROUS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

When only the best are scouted, the difficult balance between education and athletics is not always easy to maintain to transfer within two years.

RACHEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

The balancing act athletes endure between the time requirement of sports and academics may become considerably more difficult in the current economic climate. During 2009-2010, of all student athletes at Valley College, there were only 32 sophomores who transferred.

"We haven't quite felt the full effect of budget cuts, but come fall, we'll see," said Matt Crater, Valley athletic academic advisor. "They have to recognize there aren't as many second chances now ... being an athlete forces you to stay on track."

In the California Community College Athletic Association overview it states, "Above all, intercollegiate contests—at any level of skill—drive home a fundamental lesson: goals worth achieving will be attained only through effort, hard work and sacrifice." There is a darker side to the sacrifice of the athletics system, however, and for those who were not one of the 32 sophomores who transferred, the taxing time and effort it takes to be a student athlete may be more of a hindrance to the students and their educational goals.

At the start of spring semester,

many students were left scrambling to get classes when roughly 140 spring classes were cut. Even though athletes are allowed to register for classes the first day they become available, in order to accommodate practice hours, the classes were cut shortly after registration opened. For many, it was a close call satisfying the CCCAA's 2.0 GPA and 12-unit eligibility requirement.

The California community college system is becoming more affected each semester and as classes are cut, transferring is becoming increasingly more difficult, especially for athletes. The option of remedial classes during winter and summer sessions for athletes who can't stay on top of classes and the responsibilities to their teams is becoming steadily less available.

Engineering major and football player Corey Love was previously an out-of-state student who came to Valley a year ago. "The registration is ridiculous trying to get the classes here," Love said.

Sports Information Director Dale Beck believes that transferring within two years is feasible for athletes who are able to stay on track but concedes it is no easy feat.

"It's very difficult because they really need to be focused on both," Beck said. "A lot of student athletes, if they don't put their priority in both the classroom and athletics ... something is going to suffer. It comes down to sacrifice. You have to sacrifice a lot when you're going to be a collegiate athlete and sometimes you're going to have to give up your Friday or Saturday night to study."

COACH GARICA LEAVES SOFTBALL SEASON BEHIND

Head Coach Frankie Garcia happily leaves a losing season in the past.

CRISTINA SERRATO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

A disappointing season leaves the Monarchs looking forward next year, while relishing in the successes and memories of a season now behind them.

"Overall I think we had good individual accomplishments, but I feel we could have did better as group," said Coach Frankie Garcia. "However we still did well."

With a final record of 17-20, the Monarchs failed to make a playoff berth for yet other season.

Though the Monarchs started out strong with a victory against El Camino College, the team had trouble keeping the momentum and quickly succumbed to four consecutive losses early in the season. Unable to regain their footing and struggling for a win the Monarchs ended with a dismaying 10 and 10 final conference record.

Valley had a smattering of mid-season wins that proved them a formidable opponent, but after two canceled games against Chaffey College, followed by a slew of losses it was apparent that the Monarchs had lost its rhythm.

But that was last season and Garcia does not waste time dwell-

ing in the past. She looks forward to next season, "We should have a lot more experience next season ... be far more successful, especially with all the talent on our team."

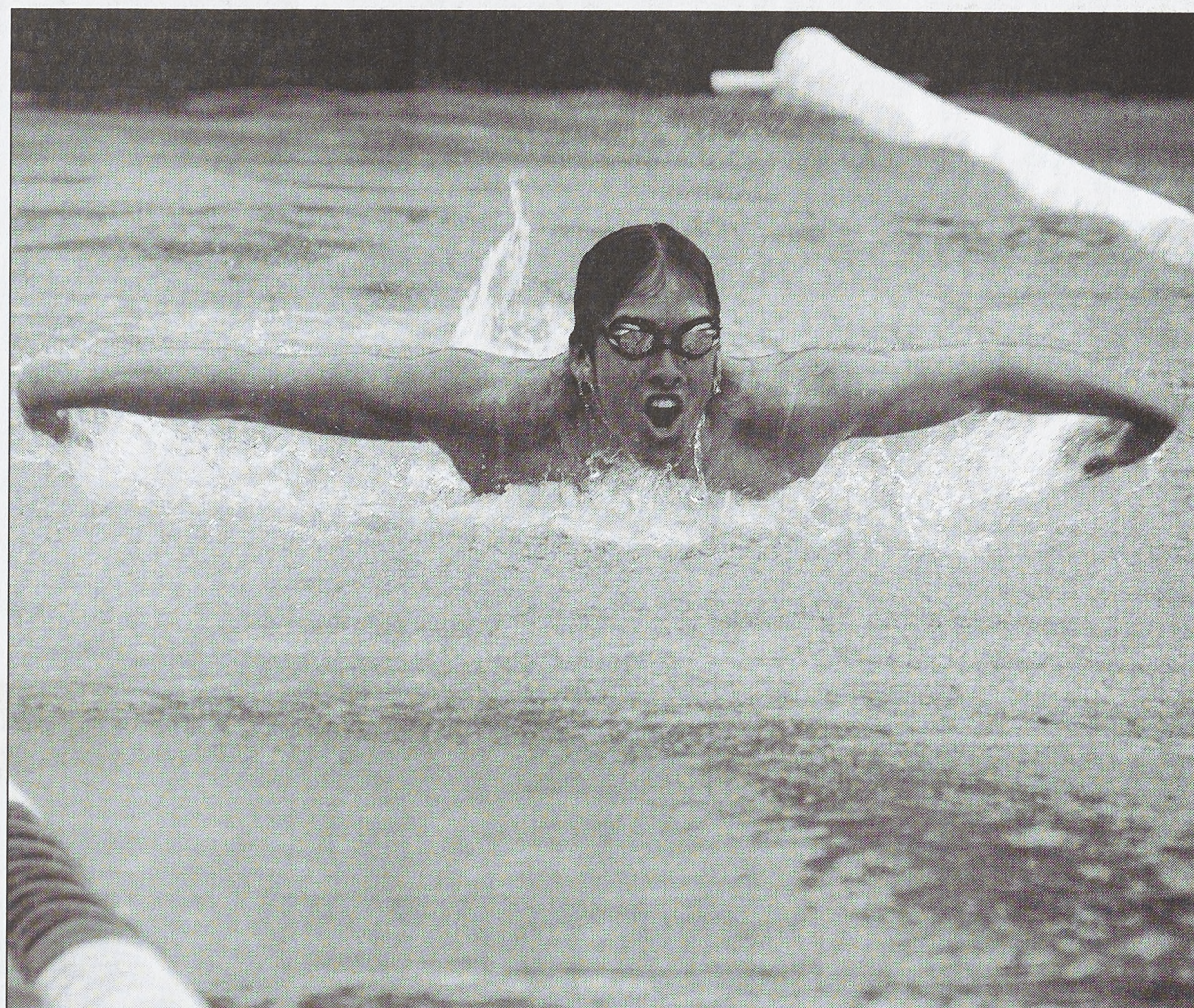
Valley may have been short on wins, but there was ample talent on the team, including outfielder Stacy Razo, who was recently named as a 2011 California Community College Association All-state player.

"There's been quite a few memorable events this season ... phenomenal games like the one against Orange Coast College where we came from losing zero to eight to winning 16 to 10," said Garcia. She beamed, "[and] Razo's walk off home run against Bakersfield at the bottom of the seventh, that's definitely another one I won't forget."

As for next season, according to Garcia, "Next season we will do better."



EDGAR ROBLES | VALLEY STAR



RECORD BREAKING - The Monarch swimming and diving team ended their season at the state finals held at East Los Angeles College April 28-30. The team broke six Valley records this season and finished 11th in the state finals.

SWIM TEAM CONTINUES TO BREAK SCHOOL RECORDS

The swimming and diving team ended their season at the state championship.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE MANAGER

Since the 1970s, when Valley College won their first state championship in swimming and diving, the Monarchs have continued to improve by breaking several school and state records. Returning from the state championships the Monarchs ended their season valiantly.

The state finals, held at East Los Angeles College, included more than 28 colleges and 40 events. Valley qualified to compete in 10 events and broke five school records during the three-day meet.

"We have some state champions ... I think they really did a great job representing our college," said Athletic Director Deidra Stark. "I think our Valley College swim-

mers can be really proud of themselves for representing their school at the state meet."

Freshman Giorgia Pino represented the women's team and competed in the 50-yard backstroke and 100 breaststroke. She finished with a final time of 33.81 seconds in the backstroke putting her in 16th place in the event. In the breaststroke she came in second to last with a time of 1:12.01, placing her in 15th overall in the event.

The men's team entered the competition with only six swimmers and managed to break several personal and school records. They finished the competition 11th out of the 28 colleges. Out of eight events the team came out strong and worked together to earn record-breaking times.

"We only had six swimmers where some of the other teams had 15 to 18 people ... so for Valley College to [have] finished 11th was a great achievement," Valley swimming and diving Head Coach Jim McMillan said. "We ended up

being the second highest ranked team in our conference, which was outstanding."

In the 50 freestyle, freshman Robert Cordobes came in 11th in state with a final time of 21.62. Khachik Playchyan, Gary Arthur, Robert Cordobes and Gabriel Fernandez earned fourth in state and set a new school record in the 400 medley (3:30.47). The same group of swimmers also competed in the 200 medley (1:41.78) finishing in eighth place overall.

Gary Arthur also earned second place in state in the 100 and 200 butterfly, setting two new school records. Additionally, Khachik Playchyan finished third in state in the 100 backstroke and won first in the 200 backstroke, setting a new school record with a time of 1:50.20.

"They trained really hard all season long," said McMillan. "They gave me everything they had and it paid off in the state championship so I'm very happy and proud of them."

VALLEY BASEBALL TRIES TO FORGET THE 2010-2011 SEASON

The Monarch Baseball team finished its season in sixth place.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

The Monarch baseball team could not repeat its success from last year. The team, under Coach Dave Mallas, lacked rhythm and consistency early in the season, opening with a 0-7 record that ultimately defined this year's baseball team.

Despite its struggles the Monarchs came together as a team and won the last 10 out of 14 conference games.

"I'm proud of our guys," said Mallas. "With the way that we started the season, I am proud of the guys for sticking through it. They handled a lot of adversity throughout the year ... it shows their true character."

Outfielder Chris Viltz led the team in batting average and at-bats with a .308 and 117 at-bats. Bryce Kelly and Eric Folkers trailed behind Viltz with batting averages of .287 and .283 respectively.

Pitcher Stephen Odachowski had the only winning record, 4-2,

among all Monarch pitchers. He also had the second best ERA with a 2.83.

"We're losing two of our three starters, Stephen Odachowski and Chase Munoz," said Mallas. "Both have been solid [players] for us all year. We are a young team and have a core group of guys ... we're going to have a lot of experience next year."

Twenty-two players are returning next season for the Monarchs. With the added experience, they are looking to gain the advantage over their opponents who out batted them .273 to .236. Another area of improvement the team hopes to focus on is their strikeout totals. This season they struck out 250 times whereas their

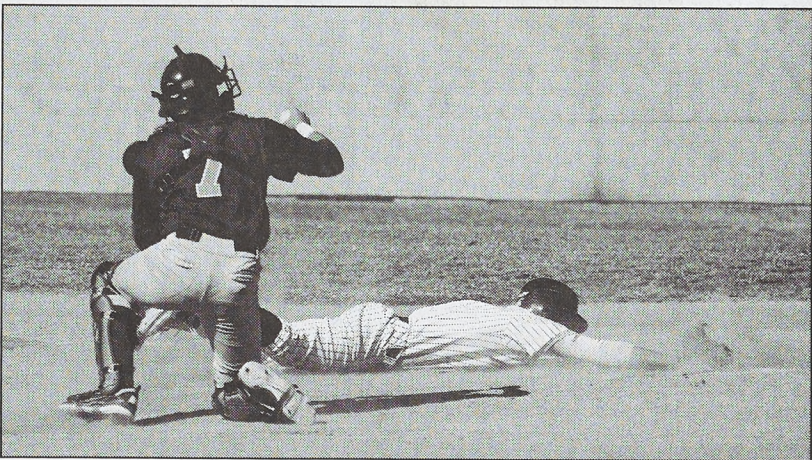
opponents only heard "strike three" 166 times.

Returning shortstop Ivan Vela is anticipating a major improvement next season.

"I'm looking forward to our returning players coming back, winning conference, and just taking it from there."

The team will be hoping for a strong recruiting off-season coming up during the summer. Mallas is eager for the summer class where the incoming freshmen come out and show their talents.

The Monarchs ended their season with a 13-23 overall record and a final conference record of 10-13



SLIDE - The Monarchs ended their season with a 5-4 loss against College of the Canyons last Thursday. The loss gave the team a 13-23 overall record.

ANALYZE THIS

UNITING THROUGH TRAGEDY

In tragedy there are many lessons ... even in sports.

LUCAS THOMPSON



It was just 10 years ago when America stood still. Flights from airports were halted, professional sports games canceled, and the nation stood gasping as we watched the unfathomable images that consumed our television screens on that early September morning.

And we united ...

A very different portrait described last Sunday evening's game between the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Mets. With one out in the top of the ninth inning the news broke that Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks and the symbol of terrorism, had been killed.

And we united ...

Soon after the announcement was made by the media, Citizen Bank Park served as a paradigm of what was happening throughout the United States. As calls, texts, news feeds, Twitter and Facebook updates informed the crowd of the news, there was nobody who kept quiet, and no one who stood still. Instead a chorus rang throughout the stadium as the 43,000 fans in attendance chanted, "U.S.A."

"It did jar me," Mets manager Terry Collins said in an interview with the Delaware Daily Times. "You almost want to stop the game, you almost want to just stop the game and have that girl come back and sing another beautiful rendition of 'God Bless America.'"

For a brief moment the age-old rivalry that has defined the Mets and Phillies history was forgotten. For a brief period, the only colors that mattered were red, white and blue, and for a moment, we remembered why we go to ballparks ... to be united.

"I remember D-Day in June, and the games were extremely important as an escape," Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully said to the Associated Press. "And that's what they are today, whether it's terrorism or a bad day on Wall Street, or whatever."

There was no profanity, hatred or violence; the kind that recently plagued Dodger Stadium after two Dodger fans brutally attacked a Giants fan in attendance, leaving him in a medically induced coma ... there was rejoicing.

There was remembrance and hugs Monday as the Red Sox and Angels gathered along the foul lines for a moment of silence in memoriam of the 9/11 victims at Fenway park. And as the Boston Red Sox draped a 37-foot American flag over the Green Monster. There was comfort in seeing the San Diego Padres, which consider themselves the military's team, run out in their camouflage jerseys in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

But despite the celebration, comfort and ease this event has created, it's sad that it takes such a tragedy in 9/11 and such a victory in killing bin Laden to unite us, and to halt violence and hatred in our stadiums, ball parks and arenas.

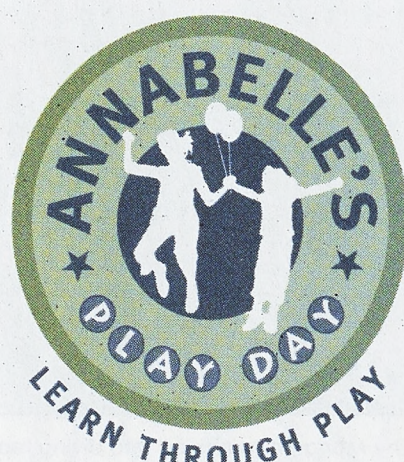
Instead, we should make these venues a permanent paradigm to our country, an example of how our nation should respond in peril and celebration at all times ... united.

E-mail Lucas Thompson at editor@lavalleystar.com



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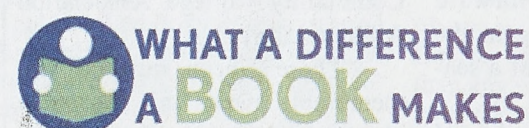
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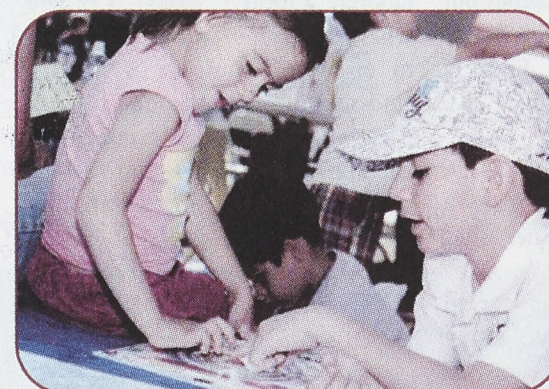
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